Left Wing extremism/Naxalites in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and other affected States in recent press reports. However, in an informal discussion with one national daily on 28.1.2005 he spoke about the deployment of CRPF in the Naxal affected States and the excellent work being performed by the troops in fighting naxalite menace.

Agreement with Myanmar for Combating Terrorism

1600. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any agreement with Myanmar for combating terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the efforts being made by Government to fight terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking at Myanmar border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India and the Government of Union of Myanmar was signed on the 25th October 2004 with the objective of enhancing mutual cooperation in dealing with issues relating to terrorism, illicit trafficking in narcotics drugs and psychotropic substances, smuggling in arms and ammunition, organized crime, money laundering, international economic crime and cyber crime.

(c) The Government has taken various steps to control the insurgency in North Eastern States. These include, *inter alia,* deployment of Paramilitary Forces and Army in the States, coordinated action by Army, Para Military Forces and State Police for counter insurgency operations, declaration of insurgent groups as unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, declaration of "disturbed area" under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, reimbursement of security related expenditure to the State Government and modemization/upgradation of State Police Forces. Regular review of the situation both at State and Central Government level is also being made. The Government has also given an open offer to militant groups to abjure the path of violence and seek peaceful solution of their demands within the framework of Constitution of India.

A number of steps have been taken to curb the cross-border smuggling of narcotic drugs along the Indo-Myanmar border which, inter alia, include strict surveillance at important points and land borders and enforcement of

drug laws, improved coordination between drug law enforcement agencies in order to impart greater cohesion and multi agencies approach, increased international cooperation in intelligence collection, investigation and mutual legal assistance, bilateral agreements on drug related matters between a number of countries including Myanmar and border meeting between law enforcement agencies of India and Myanmar.

Handling of crimes against Foreign Nationals

1601. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI's Interpol Division has been designated as the nodal agency to handle crimes against foreign nationals in India; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the factors that influenced such a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Domestic violence against women

†1602. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of incidents of exploitation of women, harassment of women, domestic violence, deaths of women due to dowry etc., during the last three years;

(b) whether Government propose to make more stringent laws to save the women from domestic violence and harassment; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to bring forward any Bill on this subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) The details of incidents of exploitation of women, sexual harassment of women, cruelty by husband and relatives, dowry deaths, etc. reported during 2001, 2002 and 2003 are giving in the Annexure. *[See* Appendix 204 Annexure No. 14]

(b) and (c) Domestic violence and harassment has been a cause of concern to the Government of India. The Protection from Domestic Violence

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.